Knotting Matters

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue #102 March 2006

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Issue 102 - March 2009 www.igkt.net

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COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

Front:

The editor has a penchant for trying to make knots with any found objects. This example of bullwhip kelp from California's Mendocino Coast shows a "diamond in the rough." Photo by Kim Moore.

Back:

Rigger Jose Hernandez-Juviel just finished this monster 8-strand splice by hand.

See center ppages

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From the Editor's Blotter

It hardly seems any time ago that I put the December issue to bed, and here it is, time for our next issue! Our last front page has now startled one or two of you to no doubt think that your Editor has lost his marbles or has at the very least got some really unusual knotting habits. It is amazing what you can find when beachcombing! One of our members, Dan Lehman, started a search from all contributors to the IGKT Forum on the internet to find knots in the wild. There may be more photographs of knots in the wild out there that our readers may find in their own surroundings - why not send them along to me and I will put them in here for your consideration?

Meanwhile, what is happening in your part of the world? While I have received one or two letters of great interest, the knot-telling activity level seems to have dropped during the winter. Thoughts of northern hemisphere knotters warm and cosy by their fires, stoves and central heating units come to mind as well as the shorts and tank tops of our southern brethren. Indeed, one or two of you have sent your own musings and product that you have created during those quiet, contemplative moments. Perhaps you are one of them, with a story to share with our readers? When you find the latest issue of KM come flitting across your mail delivery system, what do you want to see?

The contents for this issue are a little more focussed on people - people matter to us. What I would ask you to consider is that, on a more serious note, not one of us is getting any younger and, with each day's passing, so too do loved ones near and far move on in years, perhaps passing on with nary a murmur. If you don't put your article, your thoughts, your musings and your gentle (and fierce!) ideas on to paper for your fellow knotters, your ideas may well be lost to humanity, which would be a shame. I have received some excellent ideas that you will be seeing in this and in coming issues - is yours one of them? Wishing you all good speed, fair words and photos, and fair leads.

Sincerely yours, **Lindsey Philpott**

BISETTELSE - FUNERAL

Mariann Palmborg's funeral took place in "Vestre krematorium, Nye kapell", Oslo Norway , Wednesday 28. January at 12.30 pm.
Equally as dear as flowers, is a contribution to The Sunshine School in Bequia, given at the chapel in Oslo or at the memorial ceremony in Bequia later.
Med vennlig hilsen /
Best regards
Fredric og Christopher Reusch

I går torsdag 15.01.2009 kl 14.10 på Aker sykehus var Marianns seilas på denne jord over, og hennes gode sjel reiste videre.
Hun måtte til slutt gi tapt for sykdommen. Inn i det siste uttrykte hun ro og en god varm følelse, og hun var ikke redd.

Hun var sterk og tilstede med oss begge ved sin side da hun reiste.

English version:

To all friends of our mother Mariann "WhyKnot" Palmborg!
Yesterday, Thursday 15.january 2009, at 02.10 pm Oslo Norway , was Mariann's sailing on this earth over, and her good soul traveled to another place.
At last she had to give up for the disease. Until the last moment she expressed a calm, warm and good feeling. She was not afraid.
She was strong and present with us both beside her when she left.
Warm regards from the sons of Mariann
Christopher and Fredric Reusch

There will be a memorial ceremony in Bequia in February. Information will follow later.

Letters to the Editor

The views expressed in reader's letters do not necessarily reflect those of the IGKT Council. The Editor reserves the right to shorten any letter as necessary.

Dear Ed,

On page 32 of the last KM there is a picture of Charlie Smith, doing what he enjoyed most, demonstrating knot tying to anyone who showed interest – and even to some that did not.

He is well known, some might say notorious, in the Scouts and the IGKT. However, of late he has been unable to attend any of the meetings, due to ill health. I am sure that his absence will have been noted, and for those who may be wondering, I regret that I must report that he has suffered a stroke, which has left him debilitated, and unable to tie even the simplest of knots.

I am sure that the highlight of his recent years was to attend the World Jamboree in 2007, which marked the centenary of Scouting, and was held in his home town of Chelmsford. A few weeks later he was performing, under the oak tree, on the hallowed turf of the training ground at Gilwell Park for the annual reunion of scout and guide leaders from around the world. He was unable to make the 2009 reunion, where he has been knot tying for about thirty years, originally with Eric Franklin, who was a founder member of the IGKT.

Charlie always was slow with his correspondence, and so if you are one of those currently awaiting a reply from him, I think it safe to say that you will not get one now.

Best Wishes

Nigel Harding Vice President IGKT

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all our Knotty friends

from

Jeff and Lesley at Ceduna, South Australia
Yes, that is the sea behind us and the temp is around 27C, but the sun decided to hide today to try and make it as close to an English Christmas as possible, just for us.

Ed. I received this photograph and note last December, too late for KM 101, but never too late for this issue!

Knots from The Mouse Pad

Dear Fellow Knot Tyer,

Lindsey has inherited those qualities that Colin seemed to excel at - reminding me that it's time to present my "piece." It was nice speaking to him last night, catching up with what's happening on his side of the pond.

Hopefully, but sadly, this will be my last Hon' Sec' contribution. The last 3 years has flown by; it seemed a long commitment, at the time, when I offered my services to the Guild. I know that I had some short comings as a Sec, but during this period I have been amazed by the support and offers of help and advice that I have received. Being the Hon' Sec' of an International body like the Guild gives a person a unique insight to other people's lives, coming from different cultures and backgrounds and it's an experience that I will always cherish.

With this issue you should be receiving details of our next A.G.M. at Nottingham. With this information you will receive details of long standing Guild members who would like to stand as Trustees of the Guild. Hopefully you will accept them. I believe that they will bring enthusiasm and new ideas and new skills which the Guild will need in the new internet age. Don't worry, I believe they will keep up the high support for Knotting Matters which the Editor has always enjoyed.
We have not shut the doors to members who would like to volunteer - if you can offer to help or to serve as Council members, please fill in and return the form that you have received

I would like to thank Linda and Bruce Turley for all the patience and support that they have given me over the last 3 years. I know that I have tested their patience from time to time. Over 16 years of unbroken service to the Guild Linda and Bruce maintained an independent membership database which proved invaluable when I took over as Hon' Sec'. We had serious problems with the Guild's aging computer and all their hard work came to the front when it was needed. Linda and Bruce as

our Treasury team have maintained the highest standards of honesty and integrity during this period. The Guild has been very lucky to have had a commitment like this and under their steward ship the Guild has built a healthy cash balance which will support the Guild in the future and maintain it's aims, but I know you all ready know this, don't you?.

As I retire, I can confidently report that the Guild is in fine health. We have delegated some responsibilities and reappraised all the management aspects. Our membership is growing, there are new exciting prospects on the internet front and we have a team coming together to rise to challenge. Our new Web Mistress Glenys Chew is opening up the prospect of working more closely with our new Editor, Lindsey Philpott, and they in turn will be working closely with the Education Team.

Once again, although this is my last Sec's Letter, I have enjoyed my short period as Hon' Sec'; this has been down to my fellow Knot Tyers. Thank you for your support.

Happy knotting, Dave Walker, Hon' Sec' I.G.K.T.

STOP PRESS

Queensland and Victoria, Australia

Our thoughts go out to any and all of our members and their friends and relatives who may be suffering from the flooding in Queensland and the wildfires in Victoria, Australia (north-east and south-east respectively) - Ed.

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Knot Tyers

The changing of the seasons from winter to spring for me has always been a most dramatic time of year. Here in the south-east USA, our coldest weather seems to wait 'til the later portion of the season and then shows its bitter cold side all at once. Luckily, by the time this issue of Knotting Matters is delivered, that type of condition should have passed for most of us and for others it may be just beginning.

With this thought in mind, I have come to realize that the only true North-South divide that we have to keep in mind, within the Guild, resides simply in which Hemisphere we may find ourselves, either living in or visiting. I wonder if this may be one part of our international fellowship that many of us may seldom ponder upon. That binding force we all experience which dictates a part of all of our lives, the weather.

I bring this up for a few reasons, the first being my own lack of comprehension that I seem to have from time to time, especially when conversing with or hearing about the goings-on of other members. This usually comes to life while discussing the present activities in their area versus my own. Not everywhere can a gathering of knot tyers be held outside year round, or attain a good turn out, whether it is to hold a meeting or to undertake a group project. Besides, it is a little embarrassing to find yourself apologizing for not knowing or even thinking about what conditions others are experiencing at the time. The next is one of just curiosity or the simple need to know. Getting a chance to travel to other meetings, shows, and to the AGM in England itself, brings this to light. I now find this simple informative data kind of grand and look forward to expanding some small aspect of my global understanding with it and our membership.

Thus it is great to hear and read (see the Branch News) of all the happenings throughout the world. Congratulations on the successful AGM of the New Zealand Chapter to start this year's activities. Also, a big thanks to Tony Fisher for keeping us informed from the real southern latitudes and providing us with what looks like a pleasantly warm weather group photo. As with this event, the yearly calendar for all of us fills up fast and all too often not all gatherings can be attended or worst, they may not even be known to be happening. On this matter, the Guild is blessed with two great forms of communication, the IGKT website and with Knotting Matters itself. So I encourage everyone not only to attend an event, but to also get the word out of any and all festivities that may tip the interest of our membership. To borrow from an ecological adage, remember to "Think Globally, Act Locally".

My thanks and gratitude goes out full heartily to Lindsey Philpott, our Hon. Editor, for a terrific first issue under his direction. Remember; send in articles, pictures and any item pertinent for publication. After all, Lindsey is the editor, not the sole writer. Now to find out who provided the picture of me in the last KM issue! I thought someone said that hat was a British Bowler. It is all in fun and I love to joke myself. To note, it weighs more than you think it should!

This May, I look forward to attending the AGM on the River Trent, Nottingham, UK, and to seeing a little more of the English countryside. I have found this trip to be more than just a time of sharing the art of knots, renewing friendships and making new ones. For me, it is where I first really came to understand the Guilds' purpose and makeup. Though I still am a bit new in my position, I truly feel proud, as I have stated before, to work with the members of the Executive Council. The level of their consistency and dedication is something we all should appreciate and strive for in our own knotting undertakings.

Smooth turns
Dan Machowski

Single Strand Mathew Walker Knots.

A letter from Barry Brown (aka Bazz)

How Do All ;-)

With reference to an article by Mr John Halifax in KM #95, page 16 "The Single Strand Mathew Walker Ring Knot" and also an addendum to the aforementioned article in KM #96 page 8 in which John asks; " If anyone has knowledge of this concept of ring knots, please speak up."

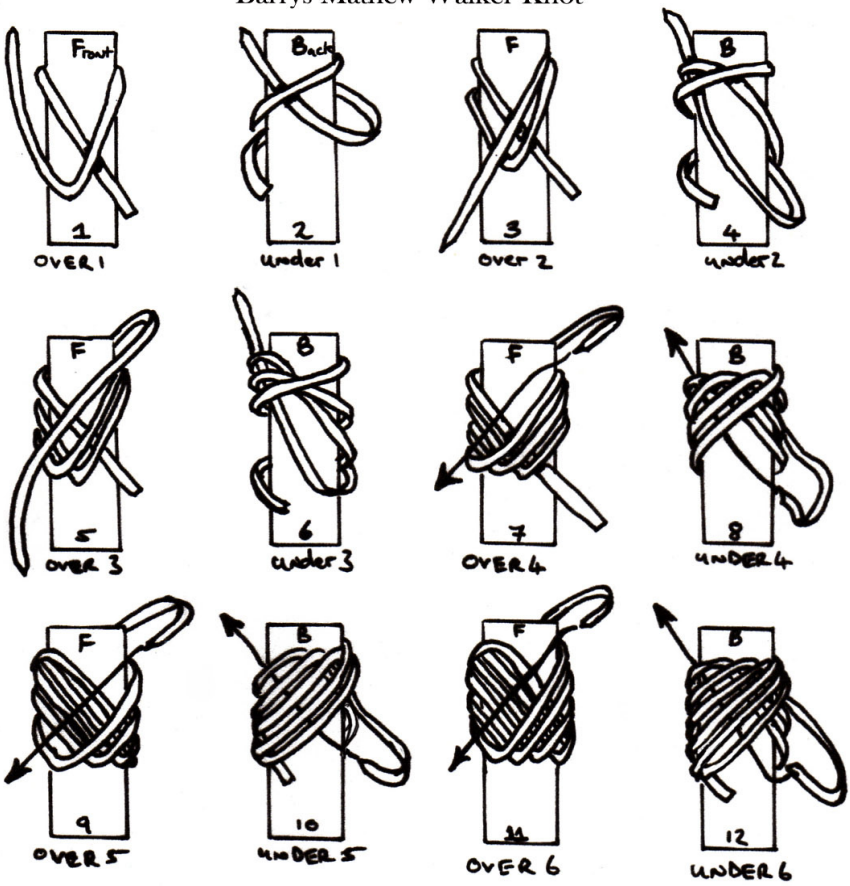
I am very sorry for my late reply to this question (too busy getting side tracked with other things). I had asked a similar question a few years back when I submitted what I thought could be a new knot (single strand Mathew Walker) to Nigel Harding as I could not find any other reference to this type of knot in any of the available material at the time. I had also browsed the Knotting Matters index, published eons ago, and found a reference to a single strand Mathew Walker knot in KM # 42, published in early 1993. So I asked Nigel if he could also check this issue for me to see if the knot I had ended up with was the same as the one mentioned.

Nigel was very kind and made me a copy of KM 42 so I could take a look and decide for myself. There, on page 27, was a large heading at the top of the page "Single Strand Mathew Walker." The article was written by Neil Hood and his diagrams are dated April 1991. This was the very same type of knot I had made and tried to submit to Nigel. This type of Single Strand Mathew Walker knot can be made with as many passes as is required. So, making a full tucked Mathew Walker knot with anything from One to a Hundred or more Spiralling strands is possible with just one single strand, and no need to find somewhere to hide all those ends, so making for a very useful knot to decorate bell ropes, lanyards and the like.

Also worth noting is the fact that when braiding some Turk's-Head knots, the first few passes made can be a single strand Mathew Walker knot in their own right; like the 3 pass Headhunter's knot for instance, (see Bruce Grant's " Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding", Page 413, figure.1). This figure is actually depicting a 3 pass single strand Mathew Walker knot. If you continue this knot by going over all at the front (going down) and under all at the back (going up) you can enlarge this single strand Mathew Walker to any size you like.

Here is a diagram I made using Bruce Grant's drawings of a Headhunter's knot of two passes as my base drawings. My drawing shows how to tie a full-tucked 6 pass, single strand Mathew Walker knot. Please note: although the drawing calls the knot "Barrys Mathew Walker Knot" it is not my knot, and the drawing was made before I knew this knot existed 14 years earlier.

Barrys Mathew Walker Knot



[Ed. - Note that Barry's drawing shows the back and front of a tube (alternatively labelled as B and F near the top) as it is turned in sequence from 1 to 12.]

Here is a picture of a 21 bight Single Strand Mathew Walker knot made with 3mm Bitumee; a tarred nylon solid braid.
This knot was made using the same method in the previous diagram. Essentially this knot is nothing more than a collection of carefully interlinked overhand knots in a single line; the trick is in the dressing.
The knot pictured has not been painted or stiffened; it is pretty much self-supporting if you handle it with care.

I hope this sheds a little light on the subject for you
Take care,
Barry ;-)

P.S please note; for anyone wishing to email me, my email address has changed from the one in the members handbook and is now: bazbrown@tiscali.co.uk

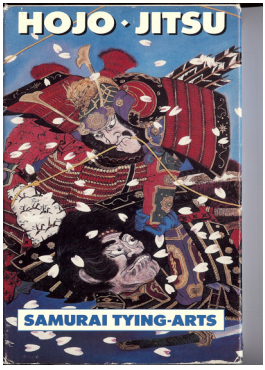
Mishima's Sword

(Excerpt from Mishima's Sword; "Travels in search of a Samurai Legend" by Christopher Ross; publ. Fourth Estate, London, 2006)

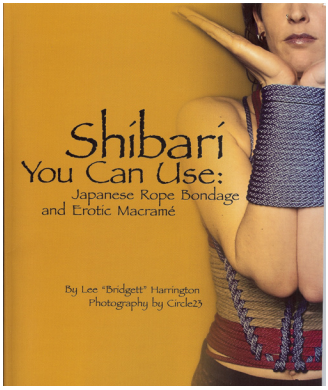
As presented by Roger Carter, New Zealand

In former times the precise knots used in securing a captive, even the colour of the cord employed to do so, was dictated by feudal rank. A martial art, "Hojo Jitsu" taught how to control and bind a prisoner. It still forms part of the curriculum of a number of the "Koryu", the ancient schools of martial discipline.

In the 21st century, the largest residual knowledge of complex tying skills is to be found, not in the martial arts, but in the sexual specialisation of sado-masochistic bondage. Everyone agrees that the real mystery of knotting and tying a human body with a rope is a Japanese skill - indeed the sexually motivated variant of this practice in contemporary Japan is knon as "Shibari". Certain methods have been developed so that any attempt to struggle ensures progressively escalating discomfort, even asphyxiation. On the battlefield this was a pragmatic consideration; for the fetishist, a means to heighten erotic excitation.



HOJO JITSU Video by Dragon Video Library, Long Beach, CA, USA and SHIBARI, publ. Mystic Productions, Lynnwood, WA, USA 2007



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My Quibble with the A.B.O.K.

Geoffrey Budworth

I would not be – and for 50 years have not been – without a copy of the monumental and matchless Ashley Book of Knots. Unfortunately (and this is my quibble) its author's preoccupation with vintage ships and sailor-men. which admittedly imbues his book with its innate appeal, has misled many into accepting an indissoluble link between rope work and boats; yet the A.B.O.K. was not published until 1944 (towards the end of World War Two), a lifetime away from the era of mercantile and naval sailing ships that Clifford Warren Ashley so ardently evokes. At the time of publication, as now, there was little evidence of real knotting afloat.

It irritates some of us no end, when we tie half-decent knots, to have some know-nothing onlooker nod sagely and declare, 'You must have been a sailor'; or, as an aged aunt of mine once remarked when shown my first self-taught efforts at macrame, `That's your cousin coming out. He was a coastguard.' Oh, no!!

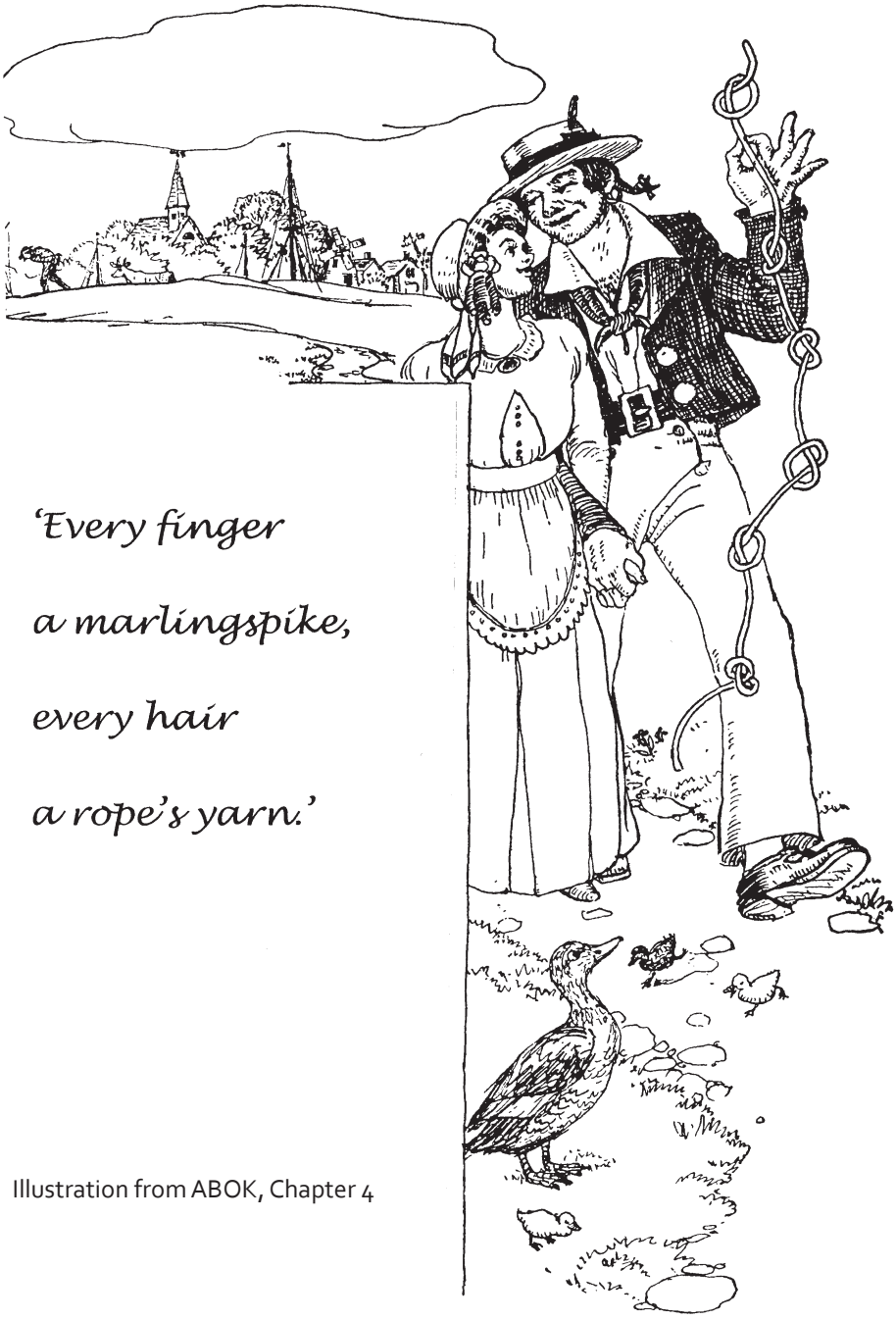
Ashley was an artist and illustrator who demonstrated an intimate knowledge of some aspects of life and work at sea and concluded, '... the sailor may be responsible for nine tenths of all recorded knots ... many tradesmen's knots are borrowed from the sailor.' He went on to state, 'Often there is a certain way to make a knot that is either easy to remember, easy to tie, or so economical of effort that it deserves to be generally adopted. Usually this preferred way is the sailors' ...' This echoes an earlier statement by lifelong yachtsman and emeritus professor Cyrus Lawrence Day who (in Sailors' Knots, 1935) wrote,

'... sailors have an uncanny instinct for discovering the best ways of performing the various operations connected with their trade ...'

The A.B.O.K. continues to sell steadily and so it should. As a historical source it is seminal. I fret, however, that its buyers and readers will then be lured into learning such outmoded irrelevances as 'bousing' and 'brailing'; 'flaking' and 'fleeting'; 'robands', 'snotters' and 'thrums' (and how to make a 'comb hanger'), as if these were still current and common acts or artefacts. It neutralizes all our efforts to render knotting relevant to the 21st century CE. The Media treat us as a joke and with less understanding than they give to those equally dedicated people who dress up and re-enact ancient battles, or who spend their weekends trying to live like tribes in prehistoric settlements. Goodness knows, I don't take myself too seriously but, to quote a one-time Guild member whose sea-going included both off-shore yacht racing and deep-sea fishing aboard trawlers in the North Atlantic,

'I advocate scientific research in knots rather than continue bashing out all that (mostly silly) sailor lore.'
(Pieter van de Griend, 'A Letter to Lester', 1992)

There. I feel better for airing this long-held grouse. Do bombard the 'Letters' section of *Knotting Matters* with your reactions if you disagree.



'Every finger

a marlingspike,

every hair

a rope's yarn.'

Illustration from ABOK, Chapter 4

A Point of (Knot) View from an Archeological Perspective

by Damien Sanders

[Ed. Damien is a Marine Archaeologist, with an interest in ancient technologies, particularly shipwrightery and cordage. He worked on a number of archaeological sites around the British Isles and France, including the Mary Rose excavation, and made honeysuckle rope for the Time Team reconstruction of the timber circle found at Holme in Norfolk. Most recently I worked on the wrecks of two French corsairs (privateers) wrecked off St Malo. Study of the rigging from these is a cornerstone of the part time MPhil / PhD on cordage and rigging he is currently undertaking at Southampton University.]

The first structures built by humans were probably held together by cordage and knots; it is one of the oldest technologies in the world, with roots which probably predate Homo sapiens, and probably as old as the use of fire and fabrication of stone tools. We cannot be certain that this is so, because the evidence has for the most part disappeared. Another problem with detecting the ancient use of cordage and knots is one of perception. Human beings have a tendency to see what they expect to see, and what they expect to see is affected by their knowledge, ideas and prejudices. Whilst the Scientific method is a check on this, it doesn't prevent it.

Few archaeologists are knot tyers, few are interested in cordage, or understand how it is made. The result can be that they do not recognise evidence of knots or their attempts to record knots and cordage are strange and unintelligible. This is changing, but only slowly, and would benefit from the involvement of knot tyers with Archaeologists. An example relating to textiles will illustrate what I mean:

Some years ago, Olga Soffa, a textiles specialist at the University of Illinois was invited to dinner by a colleague who was studying Mesolithic statues, so called "Venus" or "earth goddess" figurines. Found in the habitation site at Dolni Vestonice in the present day Czech Republic, these figurines have been accurately dated to 27 000 years before present. There has been much discussion as to their function, their religious significance, and what they illustrate in the way of ideas and ritual of their time. In contrast, Olga Soffa looked at them and immediately noticed the impressions of textile in the surface, made when the newly made clay figurines were laid on fabric. This had previously been overlooked. The

weave patterns corresponded to various forms of weaving, including plain weave, which requires a loom. As a result of this discovery, she began to study other figurines, and saw, carved into them, traces of clothing and woven and knotted hats, which had not been noticed before.

We need to discard the notion of our Mesolithic ancestors as primitive itinerant hunter gatherers running around in animal skins. Whereas on dry land sites cordage has usually disappeared, and is only indirectly detectable, on wet or submerged sites organic remains are often to be found in an excellent state of preservation. If a material can be twisted it will have been used as cordage, and human beings (or their hominid predecessors) will have made knots with it. Plant materials used include withies, of willow (*Salix*), hazel (*Corylus avallena*) and yew (*Taxus baccata*), as well as the under bark or bast of small leafed lime (*Tilia cordata*), [together with] the fibres of plants such as hemp and flax. Animal products include hair, sinew and rawhide.

When we talk of underwater archaeological sites, especially where knots and cordage were important, we tend to think of sunken ships, but the reality is far more varied and sometimes strange. In the peat bogs of England and Denmark, bodies have been found dating to the Bronze and Iron Ages. Around the necks of some of these were garrotes. Other evidence from the bodies indicates that they may have been ritually killed, they had also been clubbed and had their throats cut. One of these bodies, Lindow Man, had a sinew cord, 1.5mm thick and 315mm long around his neck, with what was described as a central knot and two stopper knots. On tightening it is believed that one knot acted to cut off the air supply, and the central knot broke the vertebral column. There have been arguments amongst archaeologists about this cord and how it functioned, but I am not aware of any of them making a replica to test their different arguments.

About 10 years ago, not far from Kings Lynn, a strange timber structure, dating from the early Bronze Age was found. Its functions are still not certain, but it had an outer ring of split tree trunks, and inside the ring was the stump of a big Oak tree, inverted, with its roots in the

air. The tree had been cut down, and the stump dug up, and towed to the site with a honeysuckle rope which was passed through two 'handles' carved in the trunk. What was interesting was that when it was excavated, the honeysuckle was found to be tied in a slipknot which would have pulled tight when the tree was lowered into the ground. The way the knot was tied, it would have undone, if it had been used to tow the stump onto the site. It seems the honeysuckle was retied in a slipknot before the stump was lowered upside down into the earth, ritually 'hanging' the tree.

More Bronze age boats have been found in England than in the rest of Europe, and all of them have planks which are sewn together with lashings of yew. Understanding this method of construction is essential if we are to understand how seaworthy these vessels were. On the Otzal Pass, between Italy and Austria, in the early 1990's the body of an early Bronze Age man was found. The sophistication of his clothing and equipment surprised many people. A cape of knotted grass, and lime bast cordage was used to make a knife scabbard, bird net, and inner shoes. I am unaware of analysis having been done on the knots used, it would be interesting to establish a lineage for different techniques, because some of them are very old.

On shipwrecks too, we know little about traditions of rigging until the post medieval period, and traditions relating to *matelotage* are hardly recorded at all in the literature, so it is only through archaeology that we can access this history. The knots which I really enjoy on archaeological sites are those which enable us to connect with the people who made them. I contacted friends who were excavating a late Bronze Age crannog - a lake dwelling on piles, at Oakbank in Scotland, and asked them whether they had found any knots or cordage. They sent back photographs of a withy tie (*noed en osier*) which they thought had been used to tie the hurdle walls (*claie*) of the crannog together.

Without explaining what they were, I showed photos to a colleague from Dorset, in the south of England, who had worked on farms and in woods (*comme forestiere*) most of his life. He immediately said, "thats a tie for holding osiers together, or for tying hurdles together to make a wall or enclosure". He then made one, - exactly as the Scottish lake dwellers had 2800 years earlier.

This summer, on the wreck of ***Aimable Grenot***, a corsair from Granville which sank in 1749 on its way to Cadiz, we excavated the mizzen mast (*mat d'artimon*) rigging. one of the shrouds (*haubans*) had a knot in it. Further examination showed that the rope around the deadeye (*cap du Mouton*) was four stranded (*4 torons*) but the rest of the shroud to which it was knotted was only 3 strand. My first reaction was that this was a poor repair, perhaps due to damage from gun shot, but something which should have been put right when the ship was in port. Was this a sign of a ship in poor condition?

Des Pawson made us a replica, and my thoughts have begun to change completely. What we appear to have is a repair made with the only suitable spare rope available on the ship, which was good enough to become permanent, saving the cost and time of replacing a whole shroud and all of the ratlines (*enflechures*). I had thought ***Aimable Grenot*** was badly maintained, but it now seems she was probably just an ordinary working ship with a skilled crew solving practical problems on a daily basis. Its clear then, that knots and ropework occur frequently and offer critical information on archaeological sites which is not always recognised, and involvement of knot specialists could help improve this situation.

[Ed. I had asked French Branch president Graham McLachlan for information that may be interesting to knot tyers and he kindly put Damien in touch, who then wrote this article for Knotting Matters. If readers would like more, please call or write to me.]

People (K

Right to left: Bob Pearce (red shirt) Gordon Perry, Josh Peake, Ken Yalden, Reg Knight, Ed Bentley, Pauline Bentley, Ken Elliott. Setting up at "Butser Hill

Smiling mums and youngsters are the starting point! Seen at South Railway Jetty, Portsmouth, UK

"Des and Liz Pawson - our stars!"

Knotting) Matters

Spirited Knot Tyers in Australia with our Past President Jeff Wyatt and Past Editor Colin Grundy accompanied by Madeleine Rowles-Olliffe and Frank Brown - gudday all!

Roger Carter in New Zealand

A broad "AHA!" smile on display at Butser Hill

A Locking Device for Pulley Systems

by Heinz Prohaska - IGKT, Austria

In his manual "Techniques de la Spéléologie Alpine," published in 1973, the French caver George Marbach showed a locking device working through a special rope arrangement in a pair of karabiners developed by him (Fig. 1). Its name was "noeud en Coeur", its purpose to replace the traditional friction knot locking devices in pulley systems. [This was] a fine solution, based on an old sailor's knot (Fig. 2). In mountain climbing the name of the knot is "Garda Knot" after the Italian mountains guide, Franco Garda, who is said to have made it known among climbers and mountaineers. Tests by the author showed that the behaviour of the knot depends [upon] the shape of the karabiners. With round profile karabiners, for instance, the knot failed through capsizing and slipping (Fig. 3). Efforts towards a better solution with the same material came to nothing for a long time.

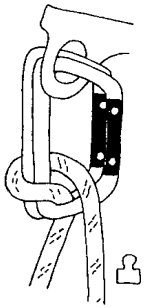


Fig.1 Nœud en cœur (Garda knot)

The Garda Knot was taken up in numerous manuals, and a lot of similar, but unstable, knots were published inside and outside of the German [language]. Whether they would work or not had to be tested in [the case of] actual use – a grave disadvantage if one must not lose time.

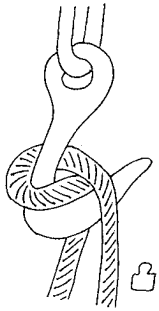


Fig.2 Blackwall hitch

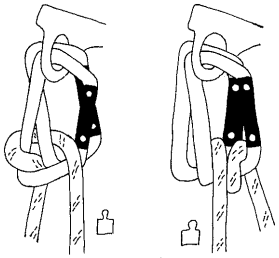


Fig.3 Failure of the Garda knot through capsizing and slipping

The author came back to the problem from time to time. There must have been more than a hundred knots of this kind tested by him over the course of the years. In the thirtieth year it worked (Fig. 4). The knot requires, besides the rope, only two karabiners and nothing more, like the Garda Knot. It works also with round profile karabiners. Karabiner size and shape may be different. Lowering of loads is possible. How to begin is shown in Fig. 5. After that, the lower karabiner is moved up, or the rope is taken out from the upper one. The knot can be used for securing a second if special equipment for that is not available.

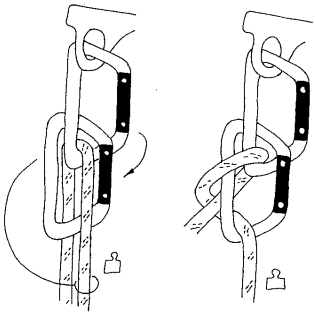


Fig.4 Prohaska rope stopper

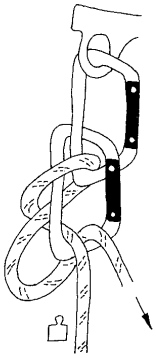


Fig.5 Rearrangement for lowering

In comparison to friction knot locking devices, the mechanical advantage of pulley systems with karabiner locking devices is lower because of the friction in the knot. On the other hand, karabiner locking devices are a simple, clear and sometimes material saving solution. An application [for use] is shown in Fig. 6.

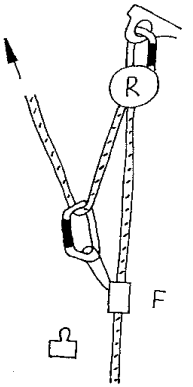


Fig.6 Pulley system with friction knot F and rope stopper R

Ken Higgs' Net for All Reasons

OVERVIEW

The best way to make a "string bag" from netting is to start at the closed end with a grommet, and then net in circular rows. This means starting with, say, ten (10) meshes and increasing in each of the next two (2) or more rows until the required diameter is reached, then net parallel until sufficient depth is achieved.

TO BEGIN

Unwind from a loaded needle a length of twine a little longer than the [length of] the net to be made. Form a simple bight and slip it over a convenient hook. With the working end, now make an overhand knot around the standing part and adjust to form a foundation loop. Using this loop as if it were the mesh of a previous row, make another mesh on it, using the gauge as shown (Fig. 1) passing the needle UP through the foundation loop from the far side towards you. Complete the knot in the usual way (Fig. 2). Continue in this way to form the required number of meshes [say, ten, as above] onto the foundation loop (Fig. 3). Remove the gauge and lift the foundation loop off the hook. Pass the standing part through the eye of the foundation loop.

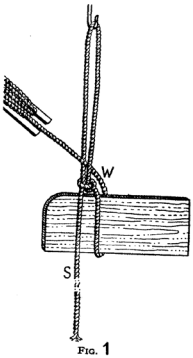


FIG. 1

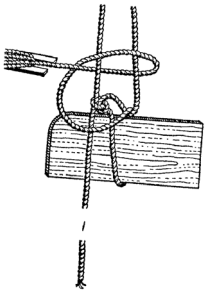


FIG. 2

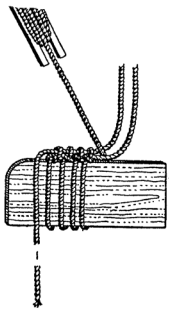
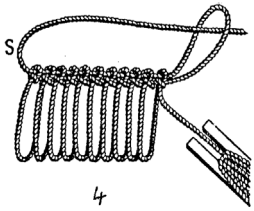


FIG. 3

TO CONTINUE

This done, grasp the standing part at "S" (Fig. 4) and pull it through the knots until the eye of the loop is tightly closed around the standing end (Fig. 5). Now grasp the standing end at ST and draw it through the closed eye. This will cause the row of knots to bend into a ring, pressing the first formed knot firmly against the last formed one (see also Fig. 7), and bringing the working part W of the twine side by side with the standing part S. Now, reef [square] knot W & S firmly together, hard up against the foundation knots where the two parts emerge from them. To suspend the work from the hook, make a toggle by tying a strong cord to a button (see Fig. 6) and pass this toggle line through the hole formed in the centre of the ring of knots and suspend the whole from a hook (Fig. 7). Be sure the working part of the twine is on the left of the standing part. If the toggle string is passed through the knots in the wrong direction, the standing parts will be reversed. If this happens, the string must be removed and passed through from the other side to bring the two parts of the twine into the correct position.



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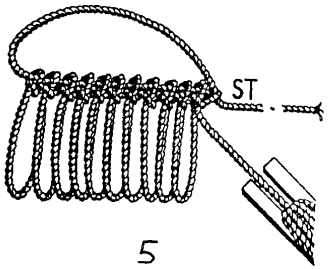

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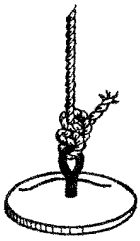


Fig. 6.

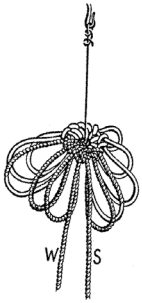
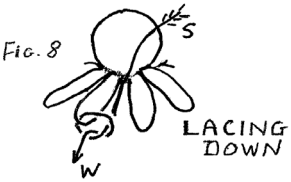


Fig. 7



ROUND TWO ET AL

This is now commenced on the first ring of half meshes after first lacing down the working twine to the last half mesh (Fig. 8). To increase the number of meshes up to the required diameter it is best to make double meshes on every other first half round mesh, and every third mesh on the third row. My routine is:- make ten half meshes to start. Then, Round 2; double mesh into the first and every other mesh (now 15); Round 3; double mesh onto the first and every third mesh (now 20); Round 4; double mesh into the first and every fifth mesh, giving 24 meshes, which I find sufficient. Then make 11 more rows (remember to lace down at the start of each row).

THE HANDLE PANEL

On row fifteen (15) DO NOT lace down – instead mesh across twelve (12) meshes, turn and net back across this twelve; then turn and decrease to ten (10) meshes by netting the first mesh into the first TWO meshes of the previous row, make eight (8) more meshes then make the tenth mesh into the last two. Turn again and make another row of ten (10); reduce to eight (8) on the next row as above, make the last row of eight (8) and tie off. Make the second panel by [cutting and] rejoining the twine to the last circular row and proceed as above. Thread a cord through each top row as handles.

THE HANDLE

THE BOTTOM

THE BAG

BOOK REVIEW

JULIAN STOCKWIN sea writer.

Julian Stockwin writes in the same genre as Patrick O'Brian, and some members of the Solent Branch have been reading and enjoying his books. As well as spinning a good yarn, Julian adds to his stories the technical details that add to the authenticity.

It was his reference to a 'Perique of tobacco' (see also KM 9. pg 7) that inspired me to write to him; it was the first time I had seen it in print, as well as a point and graft. As part of a story, they all get a name drop so it really makes a Knot Tyer sit up to see what is coming next.

So far Julian Stockwin has written nine books in the series and I do recommend if you start, you start with book One 'Kydd ', where Sam Kydd starts his naval life on the lower deck, just like some of our Guild Members.

Julian Stockwin came to Portsmouth in December, for further research in HMS Victory and to pick up the ambiance of Old Portsmouth. I joined him for a coffee and passed on some details of the IGKT, as well as a perique of tobacco and the IGKT video on how to make one. I also gave him some shroud knots and very gentle advice on the difference between a half hitch and a marlin hitch.

Julian Stockwin has a web site on www.julianstockwin.com which includes a monthly bulletin (free) if you sign in. You will see that the IGKT is mentioned in Bosun's Chronicle July 08 and if you look in the Shipmates Album, three members of the Solent Branch are shown in the Bosun's Store HMS Victory before the public visited us on the lower gun deck last August. [*Ed. See left for the motley crew*]

Ken Yalden Jan 2008

GENERAL MEETINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

WHERE: Sea Cadets Centre Training ship "Orion"
River Trent, Nottingham
UK

WHEN: Gather on Friday night (May 8, 2009)

WHY: To talk and show knots, discuss needs for and elect new Council members

WHO: YOU!

Looking forward to hearing from and seeing you.

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

WHERE: New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA

WHEN: October 9 through 11, 2009

WHY: Knotting and related stuff

WHO: YOU!

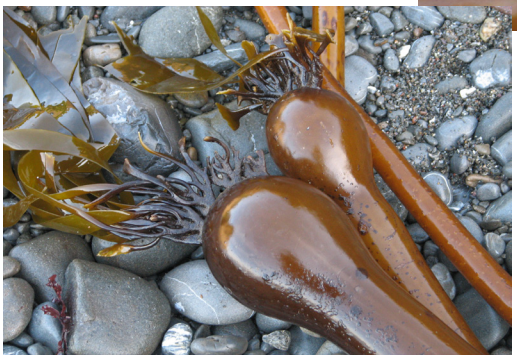
Looking forward to hearing from and seeing you.

PHILPOTT'S ODD KNOTS

A Carrick Bend tied in a piece of the end of bullwhip kelp. Note the "holdfast" or anchor, with which the kelp ties itself to rocks underwater.

A Double Sheet Bend, again tied in bullwhip kelp. Note the difference in thickness of the anchor and the smaller bullwhip section from a separate piece.

A section of coralline alga on a section of bullwhip kelp.



Our travels have allowed us some rare and special sights - these are the "floats" of the bullwhip kelp.

Branch Lines

All Branches

What: Half-year General Meeting
When: Oct 9 - 11 2009
Location: New Bedford Whaling Museum
New Bedford, MA USA

Airlines: Nearest International airport is Boston, MA
Hotels: They are next to each other and run by the same group

Residence Inn 181 Faunce Corner Rd, Dartmouth MA. Single Suite $159. per night, Phone 508-984-5858
Comfort Inn 171 Faunce Corner Rd, Dartmouth MA. Single Rm $109.95 per night, Phone 508-996 0800
Tell them you are with the International Guild of Knot Tyers.
Also, there is a Days Inn motel about two miles out of town for $79 per night, double occupancy, some smoking rooms available

Pre-meeting activities to include tour of New England Rope Company, a commercial net maker and, of course, R&W Rope Warehouse.

Additional trips are being looked into: A visit to the Mystic Seaport, in Mystic Conn. USA, Charles Towne Ship Yard (Home Port to the USS Constitution) in Boston, MA USA and Newport Harbor, New Port RI USA

For further information please contact Bob Dollar (R&W Rope) RDollar@hotmail.com or Bob@RWRope.com or Dan Machowski DanMachowski@bellsouth.net

North West Branch

Of The International Guild of Knot Tyers.

The North West Branch held the first meeting of the year at the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum This is the start of a series of meeting that will be held throughout the year at various venues in the North West of Britain. Sadly, the very cold snowy weather stopped many members, who have to travel a long distance, from supporting this meeting, but it did not stop Ken Nelson from giving a very informative talk on rope-work associated with life on the canals.

Keep an eye on the Guild's website for details of the next meetings.

Happy knotting, Dave Walker.

A most attentive audience - note the slightly open door at right - just how hot <u>is</u> Ken when he starts talking about one of his favourite subjects? - Ed.

Solent branch, UK

A Year with the Solent Branch IGKT

The Solent Branch now hold their meetings at the Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club. Lower Quay, Fareham, normally on the second Tuesday of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec. Members from other branches and visitors are most welcome.

Knot of the Day.
A knot is selected as homework/research, for discussion at each meeting.
Recent knots have included:
Knife Lanyard Knot
Marline Hitch
Zeppelin Bend versus Hunters Bend.
Rolling Hitch
Honda Knot
Shroud Knot
Snaking of whippings.

Formal subjects at meetings
Tool Rolls
Two Strand 8 Plait Trefoil
Spanish Ring Knot
Tour of HMS WARRIOR 1860, with a meeting 'tween decks.
Flat sinnet for hat making.
Knots in a Bottle

Outside Talks & Events
Talk to Fareham Wednesday Club
Hands-on knotting - Fareham Stroke Club
Meet your Navy - HM Dockyard (3 day event)
Hands-on knotting for the public - Lower Gun Deck, HMS VICTORY, HM Dockyard (Four consecutive Thursdays in August)
Queen Elizabeth Country Park Show (2 day event) 23rd year.
Talk (Ropes and Rope-making) Demonstration (Knotting & Splicing) Guildford Sailing and Rowing Club
Open Day – Display of ropework and splicing demonstrations – Gosport Chandlery
Talk & Display of ropework – Farnham Historic Society
Southampton Kite Festival (2 day event)
Display and demonstrations – Alton Ploughing Match
Talk – on ropes, followed by Splicing Demonstration – Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club.

NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER:

2009 has started with a number of us participating in the Picton Maritime Festival during the weekend of 24th to the 25th of January. As with last year, we had a Chapter AGM on Sunday the 25th. This time on the scow, the "Echo"

One of the highlights of the weekend was the attendance of our President Emeritus, Roger Carter . For once our meeting didn't clash with other commitments!

During the festival we not only had our own display and workshops, but Roger and our host Forrest McDougall went round to the Longboat tournament, where they judged part of the requirements of the competition, namely testing their ability to tie three knots!

Guild members Nicky Jenkins and Tony Cooper were both busy during the weekend with their respective jobs, but came and helped on the Saturday when they could and then both attended the Chapter meeting on the Sunday morning.

Once again Pat Cunningham spliced a wire rope with the help of Tony Fisher and Jack Sheahan. Jack had really set up a wonderful testing frame for the Six Knot Challenge and during the day both he and Roger Carter worked hard to get people involved. Next year we will improve on the signage to attract more competitors.

Sadly, Richard Hodge could not be with us, he had a prior commitment, but Rod Orrah brought one of Richard's spiral bell ropes, which is truly beautiful. In the true spirit of the Guild, Richard had shown Rod how it was constructed and Rod in turn shared this technique with Pat Cunningham.

One of the highlights was seeing Pat working for over an hour with a young lad on forming turks heads. Seeing these two people, generations apart, working together so intensely, portrayed to me what the Guild is all about...handing on our knowledge to others.

On Sunday we held our AGM on the Scow, the "Echo". Scows are small two-masted cargo vessels, developed for New Zealand conditions from American and Canadian logging carriers. Flat bottomed with centre boards, they were designed to beach at high tide, load or discharge and float off our sandy beaches at the next high tide. During World war Two, the American navy used the "Echo" to transport agents to isolated islands in the north pacific to spy on Japanese sea born movements. These days, the "Echo" is beached and is both a small Maritime Museum and Restaurant. A lovely venue for our AGM.

This was the most positive meeting we have held for a number of years and among decisions made were: -

To concentrate on participant members, rather than spending time and energy on those Guild members who do not respond to our letters;

A greater emphasis in outreaching organisations which assist youth, as Rod Orrah challenged us:..." If you know someone interested, talk to them.. keep it going, help them and encourage them..";

and a desire to support our newer members.

In this regard it was resolved to activate an "Associate Membership" of our Chapter, for those who wish to participate in our activities, but are unwilling in the first instance to become full members of the IGKT.

Which brings us to the issue of Guild Subscriptions. When we take into consideration the exchange rate, bank charges associated with paying our subs, members resolved that we approach the Council to bulk pay. This one payment would minimise unnecessary charges to individual members.

Personnel-wise the meeting endorsed that Professor Vaughan Jones continue to be our Patron and that Roger Carter continue to be our President Emeritus. These positions are as permanent as the two men want them! Both men are great supporters of the Guild and when talking publicly they both ensure that the Guild is promoted. Tony Fisher was re-elected President of the New Zealand Chapter for a further year.

Nicky Jenkins, an experienced deep sea sailor, and part of the local harbour Masters staff ,spoke to us about getting alongside isolate youth, forming a knot like the diamond knot, without comment and when that person shows interest, teach them that knot and then encourage him or her to show others in the group.. ergo [thus], that person becomes accepted into the group! Nicky also asked that consideration be given to holding a meeting of the NZ Chapter on the "Hikitia", in Wellington.

Jack Sheahan reported that he had restored an old, large fire bell and installed it in his local Fire station (for his services to the voluntary fire services in New Zealand, Jack is a recipient of the Queen's Service Medal). Pat Cunningham has made a lovely bell rope for that bell, Jack reported.

This discussion also brought out the fact that HMS "Veronica" happened to be in the port of Napier in 1931, when there was a disastrous earthquake, which killed many people. The ship was the only contact with the outside world for a couple of days and her crew were right in the thick of rescue work. Her ship's bell is in their local Museum and Pat made a new, replacement bell rope. The original has long since been lost.

Support for "Knotting Matters" and editor Lindsey Philpott was expressed. Forrest McDougall stated that it is the one physical thing that binds us together, it's a good record to have on hand. Roger Carter told us that it is good reference for research, an encyclopedia of our work. Members appreciated using it to find out what is happening globally.

At the end of the meeting, Rod Orrah took two bell ropes from his car and these will be donated to the "Echo", to replace two humbler bell ropes. The meeting ended with a lunch befitting the occasion.

Tony Fisher
President
New Zealand Chapter
International Guild of Knot Tyers.
[Ed. See also pages 39-41 for some extraordinarily good "people"photographs - key below]

New Zealand Photograph (pages 39 - 40)s:

1. The team on the bow of the Scow, "Echo" (Left to Right),
Tony Cooper; Forrest McDougall; Rod Orrah; Tony Fisher;Nicky Jenkins; Jack Sheahan, QSM; Front : Roger Carter; Back: Pat Cunningham.

2. The NZ Chapter display tent. Please note that on the left of our sign and on the right are samples of Geoffrey Budworth's work; that of Brian Field's cross is on the right and that of both Sarah Ford's work (slightly obscured) and Harold Scott's Cruciform Cross, to the left of our sign. Forrest McDougall (Striped shirt) is watching Rod Orrah talking about one of his bell ropes.

3. Generations working together. Here Pat Cunningham is helping young Ben Murton with some Turks Heads.

4. Jack Sheahan working with a visitor on the Six Knot Challenge.

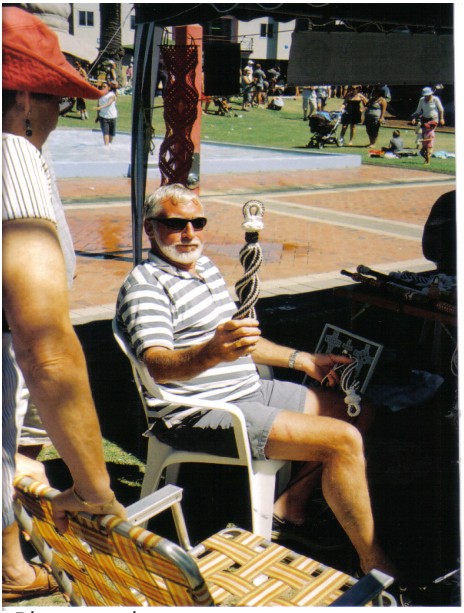
5. Forrest McDougall shows us Richard Hodge's Spiral bell rope.

Photograph 1

Photograph 2

Photograph 3

Photograph 4



Photograph 5

WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Our second full day meeting for 2008 was held in November and attended by 29 people which included some members partners. The theme that we used was rope making and natural materials. It was Graham Smith's theme and he gave a talk about what was used to make rope before synthetic ropes became popular. He then invited members to have a go at making rope out of stinging nettles. He had spent a lot of time collecting and preparing nettle fibres, and even cleared the nettles from round the scout headquarters where we meet. We also had a New Zealand visitor who explained how she had been taught to strip the fibres from flax using a sea-shell, in the way of her Maori ancesters.

We had four rope making machines to cover the rope making aspect of our meeting for those who wished to have a go. With a lot of help from our youngest member (Gary 10 years) we made a rope out of toilet rolls. This rope proved adequate to suspend a three year old child. Then we got a bit carried away and made three ropes into a cable; we drew the line at making shroud laid toilet rolls, though we did have a machine that would have done it. We look forward to more of these sociable and informative meetings.

Dave Pearson

A great time was had by all, but just where did he get all those toilet rolls?

Spirit Knot Tyers

North American Branch
Charleston, SC USA

Loosely formed, since the beginning of the construction of the Pilot Schooner the Spirit of South Carolina, in year 2000, the group's existence has waned over the years but never completely disappeared. Now, with the launching and educational mission underway, a core group of members has formalized the group by taking up residence for monthly meetings aboard the WWII aircraft carrier, USS Yorktown, located at the Patriots Point Naval Museum on the Cooper River of Charleston Harbor.

Central to the group's role is still to provide volunteer help to the South Carolina Maritime Foundation and to the Spirit, thus the name of this branch. Areas of support to the overall education mission include;

To maintain and enhance the vessel,
Volunteer training and,
To be part of the ship's sailing crew.

Shore side duties include participation in educational programs and promotions through demonstrations and festival shows. New activities are sure to be added to assist aboard the fleet of aging naval vessels at the Patriots Point facilities. Yet the key that brings old and new members together locally is the same as throughout the world. It rests in the love and the desire of learning and the enjoyment of the art of tying knots and their usage with friends.

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of the month with no admission fee for boarding if attending the meeting. Upcoming events are mainly being focused on the June 26 – 29, Charleston Harbor Fest. This will be our largest event to participate in, with tens of thousands of visitors expected. The event is organized through Sail Training International and the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) as part of the Atlantic Challenge of Tall Ships. The event starts in Vigo, Spain, sails to Bermuda for their 400th Anniversary celebrations and then to Charleston, SC. It is bound to be the largest gathering of large tall ships in Charleston in a century with a lot of fun and work. All Guild members are invited to come and participate with free access to all of the festival events and tall ships.

For information on all local activities, contact either Dan Machowski or Skip Dickens, contact information in the Membership Handbook.

Spirit Knot Tyers at South Carolina with their badge of pride

Part of the Spirit display - great show!

Knotting Diary and Calendar

GUILD MEETINGS

AGM & GATHERING 2009
Saturday May 9th, 2009 &
Sunday May 10th, 2009
Sea Cadets Centre Training ship "Orion"
River Trent, Nottingham
UK
Gather on Friday night (May 8, 2009)

Half-Yearly General Meeting 2009
Weekend of October 10th/11th, 2009
New Bedford, Mass., USA
See article on page

Branch Meetings

Alaskan Branch
Every Wednesday evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E. 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact: Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
18th April, 2009
Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket
Suffolk
Contact: John Halifax
Tel: 01502 519 1233
e-mail: johnendeavor-knots@tiscali.co.uk

French Branch

Midlands Branch
9th February, 2009 - Grommets by BT
followed by a draw for the next pot luck from Ashley's for April 13th
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

NorthWest Branch
Easter Sunday 12th April 2009 all day display of members work, practical displays during the day.
Quarry Bank Mill, Styal
16th-17th May 2009
Knots and Gossip while showing off to the public.
Etruria Industrial Museum.
14th June 2009
Branch meeting.
Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival.
2th-21st June 2009
We have been invited to this event & asked to display ropework and traditional knot craft.
Etruria Industrial Museum.
9th August 2009
Branch meeting.
Quarry Bank Mill Styal.
24th-25th October 2009
Christmas Get -to Gether and meal
Sunday 13th December 2009
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday of the month (except December)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614-6002

Netherlands Special Meeting
October 31, November 1, 2009
De Hoop & Haven Museum
Rotterdam
Contact: Willeke van der Ham
e-mail: willeke@knopen.ismijnhobby.nl

North American Branch - East Region
Contact: None available at press time
Tel: See handbook

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month,
except July and August
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: 1-310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@yahoo.com

Solent Branch
April 14th, 2009 @ 7:30 pm
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: 023 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
6th April 2009
8th June 2009 (Summer Social)
7th September 2009
26th October 2009
7th December 2009 (Christmas Social)
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00hrs. Please phone for more details.
Contact: Secretary, Peter Goldstone
+44(0)1483 763054

Sussex Branch
1st Monday of every other month
March 2nd, 2009; 8 pm
Sussex Yacht Club
Contact: Charlie Tyrrell
Tel: 01798 344258

Sweden
Contact: Olof Nystrom
Gavle (150 km N. of Stockholm)

West Country Knotters
Last Saturday of odd months
March 28th, 2009 @ 1300 hrs(?)
Tytherington, Nr. Bristol
Contact: Richard Hopkins
Tel: 0117 986 7146

West Yorkshire Branch
Provisionally the Ides of March, 2009
Skipton Canal Festival 2nd May
South Pennine Boat Club Open Day 9th May
Stainforth Canal Festival 27th June
Dewsbury Canal Festival 26 th July
Branch meeting 15 November
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Deadline Dates

Until further notice, the deadlines for getting material to the Editor are as follows:

For the June 2009 issue	1st of May, 2009
For the September 2009 issue	1st of August, 2009
For the December 2009 issue	1st of November, 2009
For the March 2010 issue	1st of February, 2010

SPECIAL NOTICE

Inland Waterways Association

IWA National Festival & Boat Show Red Hill Marina, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire
August 29th - 31st, 2009

For further details contact Colin Grundy

Coca-Cola